

Census of Agriculture

2008 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey

In 2008, Michigan farmers irrigated 531,927 acres, approximately 5 percent of the land in farms reported on the 2007 Census of Agriculture. This total ranked Michigan twenty-first in the U.S. for acres irrigated. 2,121 Michigan farms irrigated in 2008.

In Michigan, growers applied an average of 0.6 acre-feet per acre. Wells provided the largest percentage of irrigation water applied in 2008. The number of wells capable of being used for irrigation in 2008 was 4,439, but only 4,097 were used. The remainder of the irrigation water came from off-farm water supplies and on-farm surface sources.

Corn for grain or seed continued as the dominant irrigated crop for Michigan with 248,790 irrigated harvested acres; 47 percent of irrigated land. Vegetables, including potatoes, ranked second in the State with 114,222 acres irrigated. Soybeans were another highly irrigated crop in Michigan.

For the first time, the 2008 FRIS includes horticultural specialty operations with sales of \$10,000 or greater. In Michigan in 2008, there were 1,372 horticulture operations who irrigate. These operations applied water to 63.0 million square feet of crops under protection, and 17 thousand acres of horticultural crops in the open. In Michigan, 795 million gallons were applied to crops under protection, and 2.1 billion gallons were used to water crops in the open.

The 2008 FRIS is a Census follow-on survey and was conducted in the spring of 2009. Results were published in February 2010, and can be accessed on the Internet at www.agcensus.usda.gov, by clicking on "2008 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey."

Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey: Michigan, 2003 and 2008

	2003 ¹	2008
Irrigating Farms	2,366	2,121
Acres Irrigated	432,665	531,927
Acre-feet applied	218,245	298,440
Average Acre-feet per acre	0.5	0.6
Farms using Sprinkler Systems	1,832	1,517
Farms using Drip/trickle/low-flow sprinklers	692	739
Acres irrigated using Sprinkler System	418,778	503,738
Acres irrigated with Drip/trickle/low-flow sprinklers	16,583	30,927
Wells Used	4,031	4,097
Crops Irrigated		
Irrigated Corn Acres	185,788	248,790
Yield per Irrigated Acre [Bushels]	165	175
Irrigated Soybean Acres	72,371	73,986
Yield per Irrigated Acre [Bushels]	43	51
Vegetables (including potatoes)	104,048	114,222
Irrigating Horticultural Operations	(²)	1,372
Irrigated Area Under Protection (1000 Sq Ft)	(²)	62,987
Gallons Applied (1,000)	(²)	795,444
Irrigated Area in the open (Acres)	(²)	16,882
Gallons Applied (1,000)	(²)	2,089,767

¹ Not comparable to 2008 data. Horticulture data for operations with > \$10,000 in sales are included in 2003 general FRIS, but separated out in 2008.

² Data not separated out in 2003. Combined with above.

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2008 Organic Production Survey

As a follow-on to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's first in-depth survey of organic farming in the United States. NASS collected 2008 data from operators of farms that were either USDA-certified organic, were making the transition to organic production, or were exempt from certification because of sales totaling less than \$5,000.

Michigan organic sales totaled \$71.1 million, including \$40.3 million in crops sales, \$5.3 million in livestock and poultry sales, and \$25.5 million in sales of livestock and poultry products. Average sales were \$160,885 per farm. The average size of Michigan organic farms is 148 acres. In 2008, Michigan had 68 farms in the process of transitioning 5,387 more acres of cropland to organic production.

Results of the 2008 Organic Production Survey can be accessed on the Internet at www.agcensus.usda.gov, by clicking on "2008 Organic Production Survey."

Organic Production Survey: Michigan, 2008 ¹

	Number	Value of sales (\$1,000)
Organic Farms	461	71,111
Crop (Including Nursery and Greenhouse)	397	40,385
Livestock and Poultry	112	5,261
Livestock and Poultry Products	89	25,465
Organic Cropland Acres	61,478	
Corn for Grain or Seed	13,760	12,030
Soybeans	12,583	7,708
Winter Wheat for Grain or Seed	4,982	2,408
All Dry Edible Beans	4,781	3,942
Oats for Grain or Seed	1,941	585
All Dry Hay	6,125	1,071
All Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons Harvested	1,893	4,709
All Fruit Harvested	703	1,352
Organic Maple Syrup (taps)	3,227	31
Livestock on Organic Farms (Peak Inventory)		
Chickens-Layers	13,967	29
Eggs	(²)	(²)
Chickens-Broilers	11,765	99
Hogs and Pigs	1,270	(²)
Dairy Cows	2,102	254
Milk from Cows (Lbs)	18,150,933	(²)
Beef Cows	957	237
All other Cattle and Calves	2,410	789

¹ All data are for Certified and Exempt Organic Production

² Not disclosed